

May 2013 to December 2013 Monthly Division News Compilation

Steve Pevette, Division Superintendent

APRIL 2013

Here is the latest from your NMRA local Division. We now have two new members, Walter Reichel of North Augusta SC and James Riggs of Statesboro GA. Walter is one of the Tuesday night regulars in the Aiken / Augusta operators group, and James is now the third NMRA member in Statesboro. I do not have email addresses for either, but will try to get them for inclusion in these monthly news emails.

The countdown continues to the national convention in Atlanta. I am including at the end of this email the latest NMRA "infont" news, which includes a convention update. You should have also received in the mail a copy of the SouthEast Region newsletter, the SouthErneR. If you subscribe to the newsletter you receive one quarterly, if you do not, this is your annual update copy.

Electronic copies of the quarterly news may be found on the SER website.

The OFRRA Tuesday night sessions continue on three layouts in the Aiken SC area. We have been moving towards time table and train order, and a number of members joined the Operations Special Interest Group for operating news and to get their latest publication on TT&TO.

- Steve Pevette

Division Superintendent

803-392-7684

Peachtree Express 2013 News

- Most of the prototype and general interest tours are limited to 50 people due to venue limitations. Keep in mind that we must confirm tours with the bus providers 30 days before the convention. So please register now to avoid disappointment and/or canceled tours due to lack of pre-registrations.
 - Update of the tour to the CSX Training Center (P355): CSX has recently informed us they will **NOT** be able to allow us inside the center. We are working on substituting tours of Tilford and Hulsey yards. The good news is that we have added a visit to the Georgia Northeastern RR, where you'll get an overview of their operations, see some of their locos, and visit their dispatch center and yards.
 - The Southeastern Region is hosting an NMRA Welcome Reception at the convention hotel on Sunday, July 14, from 4:00 - 5:30 PM, providing a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Light snacks and a cash bar provided.
 - The clinic schedule has been posted to www.NMRA2013.org as well as updates to some of the other events.
 - A very active and entertaining general interest/non-rail program is planned, so bring the family, sample some Southern hospitality, and see all that Atlanta has to offer.

- Model Celebration & Contest: Chair Bob Hamm has issued a challenge to exceed the 2011 Sacramento Convention in the numbers of models brought for display and/or AP judging. Let's not disappoint! Bring what you're working on and show it off.

JUNE 2013

The National Convention in Atlanta approaches. Division members Don Barnes and Steve Prevette will host operating sessions through the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG) operating sessions program. Don's Baltimore and Ohio layout will be operated the Sunday before the convention kickoff, and Steve's Burnt Hills and Big Flats will be the Sunday after. These sessions are handled through the OPSIG, but if any group of SER members would like to come for a regular Tuesday night session or a special weekend session, that can be arranged. Many of the local operators joined the OPSIG in order to buy the new "19 East, Copy Three" publication as both Don's and Steve's model railroad sessions have been moving towards Timetable and Train Order.

Kalmbach has announced the 2014 Great Model Railroads publication will include the museum display HO model railroad in the restoration of the Aiken (SC) train station. Those who came to the minimeet in Aiken last fall had an opportunity to see the station. The station is free admission and open to the public, with details on their website at <http://aikenrailroaddepot.org/>.

Our division membership has increased by six members in the last 10 months (a 30% increase!). New members include Tuesday Night Operators Jack Connors, Don Barnes, and Walter Riechel. James Riggs and Drew James from Georgia also joined in this time period. We welcome all of our new members.

The Division annual meeting will be slated for the October timeframe. No elections are due, but with new members, and renewed interest from last Fall's minimeet and the upcoming National, we need to look to see if there are activities we would like to take on as a group. I am open to suggestions for location for the meeting.

See you in Atlanta!

JULY 2013

Well, the NMRA national convention starts shortly. Tomorrow it is off to Don Barnes for his Operations Special Interest Group, and I'll be heading to Atlanta on Tuesday. Keep in mind that the Southeast Region annual meeting is during the convention the evening of July 18. I will not be able to attend the meeting as I will be on an OPSIG session that night. I will host a session for the OPSIG next Sunday.

Next thing to consider is our Division annual meeting. I am looking to schedule it for October. Turnout in the past has been pretty weak. If we'd like to plan on something as a division (perhaps beyond what the Tuesday night operations group does in the Augusta/Aiken area) then we need some ideas and energy to do something. Please let me know your ideas and suggestions. I'll get postal mail letters out to those who don't have emails listed with the NMRA this summer. Hope to see you in Atlanta.

SEPTEMBER 2013

I hope you all received the SER news email this weekend also. If you did not receive and desire to, let me know and I'll get you added.

Membership in the division is growing. We picked up four new members as a result of the National Convention in Atlanta. We had good Division attendance at the convention and a good time was had by all. Since November 2012 we have picked up 8 new members. Total membership now stands at 28, which is a big increase from the low of 21 in 2010.

On the sad news side, NMRA Life Member Roy Tritt passed away this summer. He was very active in the Division and the Southeast Region in years past. He was the region president, and also the region trustee during his service to the NMRA. You may view his obituary from the Augusta Chronicle at

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/augustachronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=165909614#sthash.QwQOU5IO.dpbs>.

As you may have noticed in the SER news, there will be a "mini-meet" in Mississippi at the end of September. See <http://www.ser-nmra.org/event/ser-mini-meet-hosted-magnolia-division> for information. I will be attending, and representing the division at the Region business meeting. For those who travel to Atlanta periodically, the annual Piedmont Pilgrimage begins October 12 and runs for several Saturdays. See <http://www.ser-nmra.org/event/11th-annual-piedmont-pilgrimage>. Tuesday night operations continue on the three local Aiken area layouts. Plenty of room for more operators and/or visitors, especially on member Don Barnes' huge Baltimore and Ohio railroad. We continue to learn and refine Timetable and Train Order operation on the model railroads. Drop me a note if you are interested in viewing the layouts and/or in participating. We've even gone to a timetable on my layout (attached - Timetable 11 is the current version). Now, here is an item I need you all to consider. We need to run our annual Division Business Meeting. I propose the date of October 19 for the meeting. I am willing to host the meeting at my house, and will fire up the BBQ grill for hamburger and hot dog lunch if anyone is interested. I've not heard much input (have one offer of a clinic) on the meeting. If there is sufficient interest we could reserve a room for doing clinics. My house does have sufficient room for the division members (and spouses if desired), we proved that last year at the mini-meet that was held in Aiken.

Nothing says we have to do the meeting in Aiken. We have members as far north as McCormick SC and as far south as Statesboro GA. If someone in those areas would like to host the meeting (or point me to a location to arrange for) we could do the meeting there. But now is the time to get serious about the meeting time and place.

OCTOBER 2013

The annual business meeting for the division will be October 19 at 1PM at my house in Graniteville (between Aiken SC and Augusta GA). If you come early (11:30AM) I will grill hot dogs and hamburgers, but would appreciate an RSVP by phone, email, or letter by October 12 if you intend to participate in the cookout. Andy Chandler has sent postal mail letters to those members in the division who do not have email.

Address for the meeting is
356 Ashley Ct
Graniteville SC 29829
803-392-7684
prevette@atlanicbb.net

Directions are shown in the attached map. Some older GPS's may not show Ashley Court. If there is sufficient interest, Don Barnes has offered to open the Aiken Train Station Museum after the meeting for a tour. The museum layout is in this year's Great Model Railroads.

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I did attend the SouthEast Region board meeting and mini-meet in Choctaw MS last month. There was a good turnout and several clinics. One clinic was by the builder of the Mississippi Alabama and Gulf, a three-deck HO layout which has been in the press several times in the past few years.

During the business meeting, I did bring up that the smaller divisions (such as ours, with 28 members currently) have a difficult time offering activities. I do realize that outside of our mandatory annual business meeting, the only other activity we've performed was the region mini-meet last Fall. Neighboring divisions are willing to help us out. To the west of us is the Piedmont Division, the host of this past summer's National Convention. Their "Piedmont Pilgrimage" begins shortly (see <http://piedmont-div.org/pilgrimage/>) and from Oct 12 to Nov 23 a large number of home model railroads will be on tour. Our division has been extended the invitation to come and attend the tours. Different layouts are available on different weekends, so check the schedule on the website out. If you haven't gotten a chance through the National Convention or Dixie Rails to see these fine layouts, this is a good opportunity.

The Palmetto Division to our north has invited us to their past events. Don Barnes and I did go on a layout tour day this past year at one of their events. I also believe if we were to set up another event like the mini-meet last fall we could help ourselves, and bring in folks from neighboring

divisions. But it takes some planning and teamwork to pull this off. I hope to have a discussion on this during the business meeting.

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Tuesday night operations continues. We have about a dozen regular attendees now, and the group is getting proficient. We are always open to new members, and we have some regular out-of-towners that make it on occasion. Come check out a Tuesday night!

NOVEMBER 2013

Happy Thanksgiving to all. If you are traveling I hope you will have a safe trip. Looks like the country will be having some winter weather for the holiday.

I hope you saw in the NMRA magazine that a note from Andy got printed, asking for interest in an Operations Lifesaver project layout. Keep in mind that we also would like to plan some sort of meet for Fall 2014.

The Tuesday night operating session is on my Burnt Hills and Big Flats railroad. We do have plenty of room for additional operators / visitors. Don Barnes' Baltimore and Ohio will be next week (December 3).

That's about all the news for now. Keep in mind there are several convention opportunities next summer - the SER regional in Memphis in June (<http://ser-nmra.org/convention/2014-memphis-convention-rails-across-river>) and the NMRA national in Cleveland OH in July (<http://www.2014cleveland.org/>).

DECEMBER 2013

Wishing you and your family a Happy Holiday season.

I have attached our family holiday newsletter. The local model railroad activities continue. The Tuesday night operators will take Christmas Eve and New Years Eve off, but are doing a "training day" on dispatching and Time Table and Train Order tomorrow at my house.

Hopefully, you have received emails stating that nominations for Region officers are open. If you are interested in volunteering for an office, please respond to the announcement, or if you do not have the announcement. let me know. Also, I hope you will consider volunteering next Fall to be the Division Superintendent. I will complete my second two year term this year, and would like to pass the baton on to another modeler. We should also get planning the Fall mini-meet after the holidays, advance time is needed to get notices out in the NMRA magazine, and out through the Region news mechanisms.

See you in 2014!